

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ3957

E38

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

-----0A0BE8 180320Z /15

R 151927Z NOV 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8524
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003603

NSC FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/14/2012
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: INCREASED VIOLENCE IN CARACAS LEADS TO JOINT
PATROLS

REF: CARACAS 3369

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CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D)

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) THE CARACAS METROPOLITAN POLICE STRIKE LED TO VIOLENCE NOVEMBER 12, AS STRIKING OFFICERS AND ALLEGED CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS CLASHED WITH MP OFFICERS LOYAL TO CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA. THE DISTURBANCES RESULTED IN 19 INJURIES AND TWO DEATHS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. PENA BLAMED PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ FOR INSTIGATING THE VIOLENCE. ON NOVEMBER 13, THE ARMY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR JOINT POLICE-MILITARY PATROLS IN CARACAS, FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON

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SUBWAY STATIONS. THE OPPOSITION CLAIMS THIS MILITARIZATION OF THE CITY IS NOT ONLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT DETRIMENTAL TO THE WORK OF THE GAVIRIA TALKS. END SUMMARY.

DISTURBANCES IN DOWNTOWN CARACAS

2. (SBU) THE METROPOLITAN POLICE STRIKE, NOW IN ITS SEVENTH WEEK (REFTEL), LED TO VIOLENCE NOVEMBER 12, AS STRIKING OFFICERS AND OPPONENTS OF CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA CLASHED WITH POLICE OFFICERS AND NATIONAL GUARD IN DOWNTOWN CARACAS. NINETEEN PERSONS WERE INJURED AND TWO WERE KILLED. THE CONFLICT BEGAN WHEN A GROUP OF THE STRIKING OFFICERS, JOINED BY THEIR SUPPORTERS, BLOCKED THE EXIT TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE'S PARKING LOT WHILE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING

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COMMITTEE (DCC) WERE MEETING WITH PENA. METROPOLITAN POLICE, JOINED LATER BY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS, MOVED INTO THE AREA TO DISPERSE THE CROWDS, REPORTEDLY USING RUBBER BULLETS AND TEAR GAS TO DRIVE AWAY THE DEMONSTRATORS. NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS CLEARED PLAZA BOLIVAR AND LATER CONTINUED TO CLASH WITH PROTESTERS IN THE SURROUNDING STREETS.

DON'T BLAME US, THEY STARTED IT!

3. (SBU) PENA CLAIMS THE STRIKING MP OFFICERS ARE SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT CHAVEZ AND BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES LED BY TROUBLE-MAKER LINA RON. HE FURTHER STATED THAT RON GETS HER ORDERS FROM CHAVEZ, AND THAT THEREFORE, CHAVEZ IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE. IN A TV INTERVIEW, HE CLAIMED THAT RON ENJOYS IMPUNITY BECAUSE CHAVEZ "PROMOTED" HER TO MAJOR, AND THUS OUTRANKING THE TROOPS ON THE STREET, THEY FEAR TO ARREST HER. HE HAS FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST CHAVEZ IN THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF JUSTICE (TSJ).

4. (SBU) THE STRIKING POLICE OFFICERS CRITICIZE PENA FOR REFUSING TO MEET WITH THEM AND IGNORING THEIR CLAIMS, THEREBY PROLONGING THEIR LABOR DISPUTE. FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT (MVR) DEPUTY IRIS VALERA, AN ARDENT CHAVEZ SUPPORTER, CHARGED THAT PENA ORDERED THE MP TO USE EXCESSIVE FORCE ON NOVEMBER 12 AGAINST A PEACEFUL CITY HALL PROTEST. SHE AND OTHER MVR DEPUTIES ALSO QUESTIONED PENA'S MOTIVES FOR VISITING THE HOSPITAL WHERE THE INJURED WERE BEING TREATED, SINCE THEY ALL BLAME PENA FOR THE VIOLENCE.

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 PENA ATTEMPTS TO VISIT THE INJURED

5. (SBU) AFTER THE VIOLENCE HAD SUBSIDED, PENA ATTEMPTED TO VISIT THE INJURED PROTESTERS AT LIDICE HOSPITAL. IN THE HOSPITAL CORRIDORS HE ENCOUNTERED AN ANGRY CROWD THAT INCLUDED VALERA AND FELLOW MVR DEPUTIES DESEREE SANTOS AMARAL, AND DARIO VIVAS. IN THE SCUFFLE THAT ENSUED, A PERSON LATER IDENTIFIED AS AN ASSOCIATE OF THE DEPUTIES ATTACKED PENA FORCING HIM TO THE GROUND. PENA LATER PUBLICLY ACCUSED THE DEPUTIES OF KICKING HIM WHEN HE WAS DOWN. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT THEY URGED OTHERS PRESENT TO KILL HIM. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, VALERA CLAIMED THAT SHE AND THE OTHERS WERE NOT SEEKING VIOLENCE, AND RATHER THAN SCREAMING "KILL HIM," (MATENLO) AS PENA ALLEGED AND REPEATEDLY REPORTED IN THE MEDIA, SHE AND OTHERS WERE YELLING "GET HIM OUT OF HERE," (SAQUENLO).

 CARACAS MILITARIZED

6. (SBU) THE DAY AFTER THE DOWNTOWN DISTURBANCES, NOVEMBER

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 ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

-----0A0C07 180321Z /15

R 151927Z NOV 02
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8525
 INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 003603

NSC FOR LLORENS

USCINSCO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/14/2012

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: INCREASED VIOLENCE IN CARACAS LEADS TO JOINT
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13, CARACAS GARRISON COMMANDER GENERAL JORGE LUIS GARCIA
CARNEIRO ORDERED COLONEL GONZALO ALFONSO LA CRUZ, TO

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IMPLEMENT OF MIXED PATROLS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE FORCES OF
BARUTA, CHACAO, CARACAS, EL HATILLO, LIBERTADOR, AND MIRANDA
TO RESTORE ORDER TO CARACAS'S STREETS. THOSE POLICE FORCES
HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO HOLD COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH THE
COMMANDERS OF THEIR LOCAL MILITARY OFFICES. STRIKING MP
OFFICERS, WHO HAVE ALREADY REJECTED THE LEADERSHIP OF PENA
AND MP CHIEF HENRY VIVAS, WELCOMED THE MOVE. LIBERTADOR
MAYOR FREDDY BERNAL ALSO WELCOMED THE INTERVENTION, AND WENT
ONE STEP FURTHER TO PETITION INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTER
DIOSDADO CABELLO TO INTERVENE IN THE MP'S ADMINISTRATION.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BERNAL CLAIMED THE CURRENT STATE
OF VIOLENCE IN THE CITY JUSTIFIES THE MINISTRY'S INTERVENTION
UNDER VENEZUELAN LAW.

7. (SBU) THE ORDER FOR JOINT PATROLS ANGERED MANY WITHIN THE
OPPOSITION. CITING A 2000 TSJ DECISION GRANTING CONTROL OF
THE MP TO THE MAYOR OF CARACAS, PENA ASKED THE CARACAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO FILE A SUIT WITH THE SUPREME
TRIBUNAL OF JUSTICE (TSJ) TO END THE JOINT PATROLS. THE
JOINT PATROLS ALSO DISTURBED SOME MUNICIPALITY MAYORS,
INCLUDING BARUTA MAYOR HENRIQUE CAPRILES, WHO CLAIMS THAT
THIS TYPE OF ORDER IS ONLY APPLIED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF "PLAN AVILA," A CIVIL DEFENSE PLAN TO RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER
DURING CIVIL UNREST. (NOTE: PLAN AVILA HAS HAD ESPECIALLY
NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS SINCE APRIL 11, WHEN CHAVEZ ORDERED
ARMY AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN TO
DEFEND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THE TROOPS DISOBEYED THE
ORDER, SAYING THEY WOULD NOT FIRE ON CIVILIAN MARCHERS.) THE
MILITARY PRESENCE IS PRIMARILY AT THE ENTRANCES TO CARACAS'S
METRO STATIONS. JUAN MANUEL RAFALLI OF PRIMERO JUSTICIA
ASSERTED THAT THE MILITARIZATION OF CARACAS IS ENDANGERING
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THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOV AND THE OPPOSITION.

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8. (SBU) DISSIDENT SOLDIERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE OCCUPIED PLAZA FRANCIA IN ALTAMIRA SINCE OCTOBER 23 WERE ALSO OUTRAGED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE CROWDS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TROOPS INTEND TO CLEAR THEM FROM THE PLAZA. DEMONSTRATORS SAT IN THE STREET TO BLOCK ONE MILITARY VEHICLE FROM PASSING BY THE PLAZA ON NOVEMBER 13.

B1

SHAPIRO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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